



Gratitude: Week 1

Summary

Have you ever felt like you were being chased? Not by something frightening, but by something profoundly good? This week, we explore the idea that God's goodness is constantly pursuing us, inviting us to respond with gratitude and generosity. Through the story of Zacchaeus, we learn how encountering Jesus can transform our lives and perspectives.

Key Verses

1. Luke 19:1-10
2. Psalm 23:6
3. 2 Corinthians 9:8

Key Takeaways

1. God's grace is constantly pursuing us, inviting us to transformation.
2. Gratitude should lead to generosity and outward living.
3. Zacchaeus' story shows the power of grace to change lives.
4. Our community can be transformed by our acts of gratitude.
5. Living a life of gratitude aligns us with God's purpose.

Questions for Reflection

1. How have you experienced God's grace in your life?
2. In what ways can you show gratitude for the blessings you have received?
3. How can you use your resources to help others and make a difference in your community?

5-day Devotion

Day 1: The Pursuit of Grace

Devotional: Have you ever felt pursued by something profoundly good? God's goodness is constantly chasing us, urging us to respond with gratitude and generosity. Just like Zacchaeus, who thought he was running after Jesus, we often think we are the ones seeking God. But in reality, it is God's grace that is pursuing us. Zacchaeus, a despised tax collector, was transformed by his encounter with Jesus. This divine pursuit is a reminder that no matter who we are or what we've done, God's grace is always available to us.

Bible Verse: For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. - Luke 19:10

Reflection Question: Can you recall a moment in your life when you felt pursued by God's grace? How did it change you?

Quote: We all have been chased and we all are being chased by the goodness of God, by God's grace.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for Your relentless pursuit of me with Your grace. Help me to recognize and respond to Your goodness in my life. Amen.

Day 2: Welcoming the Unworthy

Devotional: Jesus is always welcoming the wrong people. Zacchaeus wasn't righteous, good, or even tolerable, yet Jesus called him by name and invited Himself into Zacchaeus' home. This act of grace shows us that God's love is not based on our worthiness but on His boundless mercy. When we receive God's grace, it transforms us and calls us to live differently. Zacchaeus responded by giving generously to those in need, showing that true repentance leads to a life of generosity.

Bible Verse: But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' - Luke 19:8

Reflection Question: How can you show grace to someone in your life who may seem 'unworthy' by societal standards?

Quote: Jesus is always welcoming the wrong people. Zacchaeus isn't righteous, he isn't good. He isn't even tolerable.

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for welcoming me despite my flaws. Help me to extend that same grace to others, especially those who are often overlooked. Amen.

Day 3: The Power of Generosity

Devotional: When we receive God's grace that forgives, transforms, redeems, and resurrects us, the proper response is gratitude that spawns generosity. Zacchaeus became extravagantly generous because he had met the extravagant grace of Jesus Christ. This generosity is not just about giving money but about sharing our lives and resources with others. It is a reflection of the gratitude we feel for the grace we've received.

Bible Verse: But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' - Luke 19:8

Reflection Question: In what ways can you show generosity in your daily life as a response to God's grace?

Quote: Zacchaeus became extravagantly generous because he had met the extravagant grace of Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Lord, help me to live a life of gratitude and generosity. May my actions reflect the grace I have received from You. Amen.

Day 4: Transforming Lives

Devotional: Generosity has the power to transform lives. The story of Sarah and her daughter Emily, who were helped by a church-supported ministry, is a testament to this. Sarah's hard work and the church's generosity enabled her to buy a car with cash, a major milestone towards independence. This act of kindness not only changed Sarah's life but also had a lasting impact on her daughter Emily. When we invest in others, we may not always see the fruits of our labor, but we trust that God is using our generosity to make a difference.

Bible Verse: For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. - Luke 19:10

Reflection Question: How can you invest in the lives of others, even if you may never see the direct impact of your generosity?

Quote: Part of the glory of being a disciple of Jesus Christ is we will invest in lives and ministries that we may never end up being the beneficiaries of in our own lifetime.

Prayer: God, thank You for the opportunity to be a part of Your work in transforming lives. Help me to give generously and trust that You will use my efforts for Your glory. Amen.

Day 5: Living a Life of Gratitude

Devotional: A life of gratitude is lived outwardly, expressing our gratitude to God as we share our lives with others. When we live each day in gratitude, offering our lives in generous love towards others, we experience the fullness of God's salvation. Jesus calls us out of our trees of greed, selfishness, and pride, inviting us to live a life focused on giving rather than receiving. This shift in perspective allows us to see the goodness of God that has been chasing us all along.

Bible Verse: Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.' - Luke 19:9

Reflection Question: What steps can you take today to live a life of gratitude and generosity?

Quote: If you do that, if you live each day in gratitude, offering your life in generous love towards others, that's when Jesus will say, today, salvation has come to your house.

Prayer: Lord, help me to live each day with a heart full of gratitude. May my life be a reflection of Your love and grace as I generously share with others. Amen.